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The potato Beetle (Leptinotarsa decemlineata Say)

(A study of the climatic conditions under which the insect is most likely to spread. )

The author states that the climate most favorable for the potato beetle lies between latitudes 8 to 52 and above, and that therefore Germany must be prepared ~~to~~ for an invasion by the insect which up to the writing of the article had gained a good foothold only in France of the European countries.

Badisches Landwirtschaftliches  
Wochenblatt (weekly)  
Karlsruhe, 20th May 1950 p.337

The Potato Beetle has returned

The insect has reappeared in spite of the fact that potatoes were set out very late this year due to weather conditions.

It is advisable that we recall to our readers the various regulations and safety precautions .

Inspection:

This is the most important part of the preventative service. Inspection must be done frequently and regularly.

Spraying:

The community must appoint persons of considerable experience as spraying wardens. They are put in charge of the spraying materials and their distribution. None of the materials are to be distributed while packaged but must be prepared and ready for use.

Assistants:

The community should appoint a sufficient number of responsible persons as assistants to the Inspectors and the Spray Wardens.

Time for defense:

The first measures must definitely be carried out before the hay harvest. First spraying to be done usually after the larvae appear; second spraying 10 - 14 days after the first; If beetles appear after the haying there must, of course, be another spraying.

Materials used:

First in line is calcium arsenate, furnished by the State. It is used in a 1% solution, that is to say, 99 lt. of water and 1 kg of the poison. No dusting with calcium arsenate of potato fields is allowed.

Calcium arsenate is not to be used in gardens and in mixed plantings because of its poisonous qualities.

In these cases Cesarol (1% solution) or a hexaproduct is being recommended.

The latter are likely to leave an unpleasant taste and should be bought only if marked with the official: "Free of unpleasant taste" mark.

(E 605 is not effective against the potato beetle.)

Expense:

A) The State furnishes free of charge:

a) Calcium arsenate sprays, to be used exclusively for the fight against the potato bug.

b) Equipment: ~~are~~ furnished, inspected, and repaired free of charge by the official ~~work~~ mechanic or at the shop for the Plant Protection Station. For any damage due to carelessness the community will be held responsible.

B) Expenses for any other materials used in the anti-beetle campaign will have to be carried by the individual.

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 page 5

### The Potato Beetle in Europe

There is a great deal of concern in Germany regarding the report of the wide spread of the Colorado Beetle in France where it has gotten a foothold over most of the country.

Ever since 1877 and 1878 the Governments of Europe have recognized the danger of the insect and have tried to stop its invasion of their own countries by legislation.

As early as 1875 Germany prohibited the import of potatoes, peelings, cuttings, and packing material from America. Yet individual insects were found at various times in Bremen, Rotterdam, and Liverpool.

When the insect was discovered in 1877 in Mühlheim, Germany, vigorous measures were immediately instituted to stop its spreading over more than the then infected area. The field was drenched with petroleum and fire set to it. The plants on adjoining fields were cut down and also burnt. The soil was spaded through with raw potash lye and lime-milk. This disposed of the infection at that time, but other trouble spots appeared in two or three places in Saxony.

In 1887 the Colorado Beetle again appeared in Saxony and insects in all stages of development were gathered by hand and destroyed. The area itself was treated as described above.

In 1914 the insect reappeared at Stade near Hamburg, but immediate resolute measures stopped the infestation and no new ones have been discovered since. (written in 1923)